

Scituate Community Preservation Committee Funding Request Form

DATE and YEAR of Application: September 25, 2019

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Project Sponsor or Organization: Scituate Antique Fire Engine Restoration Group

Contact Name & Address: Jerrilyn Quinlan, 317 OOB Road, Scituate, MA

Telephone Number: 781-545-1421

Email: jerrilynquinlan@yahoo.com

PROJECT INFORMATION

CPA CATEGORY *(check all that apply)*:

OPEN SPACE
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RECREATION
 COMMUNITY HOUSING

NAME OF PROJECT: Restoration of Town of Scituate 1924 White Fire Truck

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Restoration of Town of Scituate's 1924 White fire truck, the second motorized pumper fire truck that the town purchased. **Please see Attachment A: History of the Fire Truck (pgs. 4-5) & Attachment C: Project Description, Timeline, Budget, & Need (pgs.7-8)**

Attach additional pages including summary, budget, estimated timeline and justification of need.

Project Location or Address: Currently at 317 Old Oaken Bucket but being moved to town building.

Include map, photo and other imagery for ALL category projects.

If Open Space or Community Housing:

Assessor's Map Page, Block & Lot Number: _____

Number of acres in parcel: _____

Current Zoning Classification: _____

Assessed Value: Purchased for \$4,000; Present Resale Value at least \$10,000
(per professional fire truck restorer John Gasper)

Title in name of: _____ Title Abstract Date: _____

Number of housing units proposed: _____

Summarize how this request benefits the Town of Scituate and meets the goals of the Community Preservation Act.

Please see Attachment E: Benefits Town of Scituate & Meets CPC Goals on pg. 10.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

What permits and approvals are required? Have they been obtained or have you filed for them?

Name of Permit	Filed? (Y/N)	Filed (Date)	Obtained (Date)
N/A			

Have you met with any other Town Boards or committees? If so, what were the outcomes of those meetings? *(Letters of support from other Boards and committees should be included in the application or supplied at a later date.)*

Met with Historical Society members: The Society committed to donate \$5,000, contingent upon receipt of CPC funding for the project.

Notes:

What non-financial support and services are necessary, and how will these be provided?

The Group needed to secure a town building to store the fire truck, since this is a Town of Scituate vehicle. Town Administrator Jim Boudreau gave permission to use the town building located behind the Scituate Safety Complex on Route 3A.

FUNDING

Describe the proposed funding for this project. Identify other sources you are seeking funds from, and whether those funds are secured. Identify any funds you or your organizations are willing to provide.

Please see Attachment F: Funding on pg. 11.

Proposed Funding

Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Sources of Funds other than CPA	Amount	Funding Secured? (Y/N)*
\$ 140,000	\$ 135,000		\$ 135,000	N
		Scituate Historical Society	\$ 5,000	N
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

** If the request is still outstanding, when do you expect to hear a decision?*

OTHER COMMENTS

Provide any other information you think the CPC should be aware of in evaluating your request for funding.

The opportunity to purchase this Town of Scituate 1924 White Fire Truck was amazing! Many fire trucks from the 1920s were scrapped in the 1940s because of the need for metal during World War II. This fire truck was still in service during the war years so it escaped the war effort scrap drive. It was retired in 1947 and from then on the fire truck was privately owned and stored by various owners in barns for the past 72 years.

By signing below, the Applicant represents he/she is duly authorized, agrees to the terms and conditions and all other requirements of this Application and agrees to be bound thereby if funding is granted for the Project.

Date: September 25, 2019

Signature: 

FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE USE

This request received by Scituate CPC on _____

Copies provided to CPC Members on _____

Additional information required: _____

Committee Vote

Votes:	Yes / No	Votes: Y/N/Abstain	Date
Recommend to			
Town Meeting			

Other: _____

Attachment A

History of the Town of Scituate 1924 White Fire Truck

According to the 1924 and 1925 Town of Scituate Town Reports (see below), purchase of a new fire truck was denied in the 1924 Town meeting and then approved in the 1925 Town meeting.

1924 Town Report: From the 1924 Town Report, Article 17: Will the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of a Triple Combination Pumper, etc.” With 63 in favor and 94 against, the vote was No.” Then: “On December 26, 1924, Hose House No. 4, Minot, with its contents, was destroyed by fire which was a vital loss to the Town, especially to that section.”

1925 Town Report: In the 1925 Town Report, at the Annual Town Meeting, Article 27, the Town voted to “apply the sum of \$5,000 received from the insurance on the Hose House and apparatus destroyed by fire in North Scituate Beach toward the purchase of new apparatus for that section, and raise and appropriate the further sum of \$800 for that purpose.” This enabled the Fire Department to purchase the 1924 White Fire Truck for \$5,800. Why it cost less than the 1923 fire truck the town owned may be due to a number of reasons: This truck was slightly smaller than the first fire truck purchased by the town; it was a 1924 model bought in 1925; or it may not have been outfitted with all the same tools and accessories as the 1923 truck. The Town put the truck into service in Hose House No. 4 in Minot, and it became the second motorized pumping truck owned and operated by the Town.

The fire truck remained in service in Minot until 1947 when the Fire Department decided it was time to retire it. The fire truck was purchased (amount unknown) by Donald Whittemore who lived in Minot. Because it had been used in an outlying station while in service in Scituate, so not used as often as other Fire Department vehicles, it was in good condition when Mr. Whittemore bought it. He owned a 200-acre apple orchard (Maple Ridge Farm) in Westminister, MA, where he took the fire truck. It is not known why Mr. Whittemore purchased the fire truck but Clay Swenor, who worked at the apple farm as a young teenager, said the fire truck was stored in a barn on the farm and that Mr. Whittemore did nothing with the truck during the time it was stored there. Young Mr. Swenor loved the fire truck; during his lunch breaks at the apple orchard, he would go into the barn and sit on the truck while he ate his lunch.

In 1966, Mr. Whittemore decided to sell the fire truck. Mr. Swenor desperately wanted to buy it but he was only 14 years old at the time, and his father said no to his request. However, two Swenor relatives, Warren and Gail Preble, decided to purchase the fire truck and paid a nominal fee (actual amount unknown) to Mr. Whittemore for the fire truck. Soon after, the Preble’s moved to Phillerton, PA and brought the fire truck with them to their new home. The Prebles stored the fire truck in a barn on their property with the intention of one day restoring it. For 40+ years, the fire truck remained in the barn; restoration never occurred. Then in 2008, the Prebles decided to sell it. At that time, Clay Swenor was a Lieutenant in the Westminister Fire Department. Mr. Swenor, who had wanted his father to buy the fire truck when he was 14 years old, was now able to purchase it himself from the Prebles for \$3,000.

It was a dream come true for Mr. Swenor, who was thrilled to buy the fire truck he wanted back in 1966. It had now been stored in barns for 60+ years, the body was solid, and he began the restoration process. Mr. Swenor purchased four new tires and tubes at a cost of \$2,500, restored four tire rims, painted the front seat and rear toolbox, and made a finely crafted wooden steering wheel. One of the fire truck restorers the Group spoke with estimated that the steering wheel alone was worth \$3,000. However, as the years went by, the project became too difficult and costly for Mr. Swenor to complete. At that point, the retired Fire Lieutenant offered to sell the fire truck to the Town of Scituate or the Fire Department because of its great significance to the town’s history.

Several years ago a letter from Clay Swenor was read at Firefighters Sunday in Scituate; the letter stated that Mr. Swenor owned the 1924 White Fire Truck, which was the second motorized fire truck owned and operated by the Town of Scituate. He wanted to know if the Fire Department or the Town was interested in purchasing it from him.

Years went by, and nothing happened until James Glinski, who wrote the recent book titled *A History of the Scituate Fire Department*, went to talk with Mr. Swenor about his fire truck; he wanted to include information about it in his book. Mr. Glinski was also looking for additional photos for his book and was referred to retired Fire Captain Norman Duffy who had taken numerous photos over the years. During their conversations, Mr. Glinski mentioned Clay Swenor's fire truck, and Mr. Duffy thought it would be terrific to have the truck returned to Scituate. The photo of Mr. Swenor's fire truck in *A History of the Scituate Fire Department* looked quite presentable, so Mr. Duffy asked fellow retired firefighter Robert Quinlan if he wanted to go with him to check it out. Then, during the Annual Historical Society Supper, Mr. Duffy and Mr. Quinlan talked with other fire department retirees about Mr. Swenor's fire truck, and two additional retirees expressed an interest in it. This lit a fire (no pun intended) under the retirees, each one committed to buying the truck, and the Scituate Antique Fire Engine Restoration Group (the Group)—Norman Duffy, Robert Quinlan, Thomas Bell, and Donald Litchfield—was formed. It would be cumbersome to refer to these retirees by the full group name, so they will be referred to as “the Group” in most instances throughout this application. Several retirees drove to Westminster to see what condition the fire truck was actually in. Being almost 100 years old, they didn't think it would be in very good condition but they were pleasantly surprised to find that it was actually in great condition!

Mr. Swenor offered to sell the fire truck to them for \$4,000...a bargain price! This “bargain” was based on the condition of the fire truck, the work already done on the truck by Mr. Swenor, and an onsite evaluation by professional fire restorer John Gasper, who said the actual resale value is easily \$10,000. Mr. Gasper based his \$10,000 value on the overall condition of the truck and the fact that it runs and drives. The retirees purchased the fire truck and brought it back to Scituate. To view current photos of the fire truck, see **Attachment B: Town of Scituate 1924 White Fire Truck on pg. 6.**

Confirmation that this is the 1924 White Fire Truck owned by the Town of Scituate is based on several factors: first, the gold lettering of Scituate and the Number 4 are faded but still visible on the fire truck; second, Mr. Swenor sent the fire truck's data plate information to the Vintage White Truck Association in California, and the organization verified that this fire truck was purchased by the Town of Scituate; and third, Mr. Swenor provided a Commonwealth of MA Certification of Title for the fire truck.

Attachment B: Town of Scituate 1924 White Fire Truck

Front of Fire Truck



Driver Side



Back of Fire Truck



Passenger Side



Attachment C

Project Description, Timeline, Budget and Need

Project Description

Restoration of a nearly 100-year-old fire truck once owned by the Town of Scituate is the goal of this project. The Scituate Antique Fire Engine Restoration Group consists of four Town of Scituate Fire Department retirees: N. Duffy, R. Quinlan, T. Bell, and D. Litchfield. This 1924 White Fire Truck was once owned and operated by the Scituate Fire Department; it is the second motorized fire truck purchased by the Town. The men bought the fire truck to restore it because of its great historical significance to the Town of Scituate. To ensure the quality and accuracy of the restoration, the fire truck will be restored by a professional fire restoration company. Once completed, the Scituate community will be able to enjoy viewing and learning about this important historical town artifact.

Timeline

The plan is that the project will be completed in 18–24 months. As the project moves along, the Group will monitor the progress and keep the CPC informed as to whether they are on, ahead, or behind on their proposed schedule. During the first phase of this project, the Group sought out and consulted with fire truck restorers—Jack Tweed, Bare Cove Fire Museum members, Peter West—to determine the best and most cost efficient way to achieve their goal. Based on recommendations, the Group requested a cost estimate from John Gasper, a professional fire truck restorer in CT. They requested a cost estimate from Mr. Gasper who came highly recommended by the fire truck restorers with whom they consulted, and this is how they arrived at the amount of funding they will need to complete the project.

Budget and Need

To achieve their restoration goal, the Group needs to secure funding, which is what they are requesting from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). CPC funding will enable the Group to restore the fire truck to a mechanically sound condition, repaint it, redo the Scituate lettering and pin striping on the truck, and purchase missing parts (fire extinguishers, ladders, hose, bell, and other firefighting equipment). Funding will also be used to repay each of the four retirees the initial \$1,000 they put in to purchase the fire truck. The fire truck will not be owned by the Group; it will become the property of the Town of Scituate.

When the Group contacted John Gasper, he said that he wanted to actually see and inspect the fire truck before submitting his estimate. He drove up from CT and spent several hours going over the fire truck and talking with the Group. During his inspection, it became apparent that he felt the fire truck needed a more thorough overhaul than the Group had originally planned on doing. First, Mr. Gasper emphasized that doing a pristine paint job on the truck without sandblasting and painting the undercarriage and frame did not make sense because the frame and other parts under the fire truck will be visible once the restoration is complete. To have a perfect paint job above but a rusty and/or gunk-covered frame and parts that would be visible underneath would greatly deter from the esthetic appearance of the restoration. With new paint, lettering, pin striping, fire equipment, and accessories above, it would be a shame to leave the visible parts beneath the fire truck body in an unfinished condition. Plus, if at a later date it is discovered that the frame or another part of the undercarriage requires repair, the new paint job would be compromised. By doing a frame-off restoration, the restorer can inspect and evaluate whether additional work needs to be done to those parts of the fire truck. Mr. Gasper advised that it is better to check everything out now. Second, he stated that it doesn't make sense to do a minor overhaul of the motor, even though it now runs and drives, because it would be disastrous to later find out that it is necessary to take apart a lot of the newly painted vehicle if an engine problem arises. It would be best to do a complete overhaul of the engine now while the truck is all apart rather than to take that chance. After all, he said, this is the original engine in the fire truck and, being almost 100 years old, there's a good chance that some parts will need to be replaced...better to do them now.

The Group then contacted Mr. West who had been quite helpful in discussing the restoration process with them. He said that he would concur with whatever Mr. Gasper suggested because he knows Mr. Gasper to be an excellent fire truck restorer. Mr. Gasper's company is only a couple of hours away so it won't be expensive or difficult to transport the fire truck to CT, and it would be easy to visit periodically to check on the progress of the restoration in CT. To see Mr. Gasper's cost estimate, go to **Attachment D: Gasper Estimate on pg. 9**. Please also note that Mr. Gasper's estimate does not include the purchase of tools and accessories and the restorative work that might be needed on those items. This could easily add an additional \$5,000+ to restoration costs.

The Scituate Antique Fire Engine Restoration Group is requesting \$135,000 from the CPC to complete this project. The Scituate Historical Society has committed to donate \$5,000 toward the restoration costs, contingent upon receipt of funding from the CPC.

Note: The four retirees who each put in \$1,000 to initially purchase the fire truck will be reimbursed.

Attachment D: John Gasper Cost Estimate

Gaspers Automotive Restoration LLC
 330 Main St. Manchester CT 06040

Date	Estimate #
9/21/2019	2019-8

Name / Address
Scituate Antique Fire Engine Restoration Group

Project

Description	Total
Complete disassembly of truck and re-assembly. Restoration of all components of fire engine except tools and ladders. (See below for added items)	65,000.00
Repairing re-plating of all britework to original nickel finish.	8,000.00
Body work and paint on all painted portions of the truck. Paint colors to be matched as close as possible to original.	20,000.00
Rebuilt engine, water pump, magneto, clutch and radiator.	15,000.00
New wiring harness, rebuilt generator, starter and cutout, rebuilding lights and gauges.	5,000.00
Rebuild carburetor, fuel lines, clean out tank etc.	1,000.00
Replace entire exhaust system.	350.00
Complete rebuild of brakes and braking system	1,700.00
Complete gold leaf and pin striping of vehicle.	14,000.00
New water tank for fire pump and battery box. Repair of driver front fender.	2,500.00
Added Items: Any ladders, extinguishers, tools etc. can be sourced by Gasper's Automotive Restoration and restored. Pricing and availability would depend on going to flea markets or suppliers to obtain original equipment and then restoration costs. TBD.	0.00
Added Costs: With any vintage vehicle there are sometimes hidden problems or unforeseen items that are found after disassembly. Any broken parts that are not repairable will have to be sourced and purchased at added expense to this estimate. Anything needed in addition will be discussed with customer at the time and added to invoice accordingly.	
CT Sales Tax	0.00
I hope to restore this for you soon!	Total
	\$132,550.00

Attachment E

Benefits Town of Scituate and Meets CPC Goals

Preservation of one of Scituate's earliest motorized fire trucks will benefit the Town of Scituate in numerous ways. Scituate, like many other cities and towns in the state, is experiencing rapid growth and development, which in many ways changes not only the design but also the character of the community. However, Scituate has a rich history that must be preserved so that the community can understand and appreciate the heritage and culture from which various aspects of the town, in this case the Scituate Fire Department, emanated. By preserving the 1924 White Fire truck, the community will learn what life was like almost one hundred years ago in Scituate and how much our town's firefighting system has advanced since then.

Upon completion of the 1924 White Fire Truck restoration, current and future generations will learn about and from this project. The fire truck will be used to educate community members about the history of the Scituate Fire Department, it will participate in the town's local parades (St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th in Humarock and Sand Hills, and Labor Day), it will be displayed at various local events (Heritage Days, Touch a Truck, Firefighter's Sunday, etc.), and it may even be included in parades in nearby towns. Once a permanent home is found for the restored fire truck, the community can visit the building and continue to learn about this important part of the Town of Scituate's history.

The Group has also considered other funding opportunities that could benefit the town once the fire truck is restored. If the back of the fire truck is set up in the future with bench seating, it could be rented out for weddings, to transport the groom to the wedding, the bride and groom to the reception, or for the entire wedding party to be transported to/from the church and/or reception. Children love fire engines! For children's themed parties, the fire truck could be rented out to provide party attendees with rides in the back of the fire truck. However, these uses may make it too much of a liability for the town, but it could be rented out to other towns for inclusion in their parades or for display during town events or celebrations in other towns. Community members identify with and appreciate artifacts that represent the history of their town. Placing a sign requesting donations or putting a firefighter's boot beside the fire truck at various events could also generate donations to the town.

The Group wants to restore the 1924 White fire truck to help preserve a part of Scituate's unique heritage through this historic asset. CPC support is crucial to the success of this project.

Attachment F: Funding

Additional Funding

The Group has observed a lot of public interest in the project. Several members of the community heard about the purchase of the fire truck and stopped by to view it in its current location and to discuss the project with Group members. The Group also brought the fire truck (borrowed a truck and trailer to transport it) to the August Scituate Car Show in Cole Parkway where it drew a large crowd and many questions about the project from community members. Because of all this interest, we expect to receive donations from a number of Scituate residents who have expressed their interest in the project and feel that the restoration of this second motorized Scituate Fire Department fire truck would be a valuable addition to the Town of Scituate's historical artifacts.

Budget and Need:

Please see Attachment C: Project Description, Timeline, Budget and Need on pgs. 7–8.